

They that are whole need not a Physician, But They That Are Sick
(Mark 2:13-17)

- I. The Depraved Condition of The Sinner
 - A. He Was Dishonest
 - B. He Was Disloyal
 - C. He Was Defiled
- II. The Departing Condescension from The Separated
 - A. The Conversion of The Sinner
 - B. The Company of Sinners
 - C. The Controversy of The Scene
- III. The Divine Commission of The Saviour
 - A. The Rejection of The Self-Righteous
 - B. The Repentance of The Sinner

They that are whole need not a Physician... Mark 3:13-17

Recently we received a letter from our pediatricians office that informed us that as of April 31st 2008 our pediatrician - who has served this community for 37 years will be retiring. We are gonna miss him. When I was there w/ Grayson the other day, the receptionist was telling us how to get medical records transferred. Then she said "But until the 31st, y'all still come here." I said "You don't have to worry about that, sick or not we may make up reasons to come to the Dr." The more I thought about it the more I concluded that going to the Dr w/o being sick and charging my insurance is pretty much fraudulent. But Grayson has always got a cold so, I think we're OK. But going to the Dr. w/o being sick is a pretty ridiculous notion. This is exactly what Jesus is pointing out in our text. The Key to the gospel path is Rom 3:23. but until that is willingly and freely admitted, that sinner at the feet of Jesus is as out of place as a healthy person at a funeral.

I. The Depraved Condition of the Sinner

Most often our reaction to the most depraved & sinful conditions in society is to recoil in disgust. From the drunk and staggering out of bars to the

second mile couple Holding hands. Not same reaction to LRS

A. He Was Dishonest - When a nation was under Roman rule, the job of collecting taxes as ~~permeated~~ ^{permeated} the the locals in the area. Not a very popular job going to friends & neighbors... ^{collecting}

stated taxes. But there was also duties on using roads, docking in harbors, sales taxes, even on carts. Work this way - Steps you going in searches you charges tax, No money no problem, loan, then under think

B. He was Disloyal - Romans would not only plunder a city militarily by their armies but they would continue to pilage the nation governmentally by its taxes. And one that volunteered to hold position as tax collector, was seen as a traitor, one who sided with the enemy. They were despised by their friends, They were a disgrace to their families. And generally hated as a whole.

C. He was Defiled - By the Jewish teachings of the day, a tax collector was pronounced ceremonially unclean. He would have the same standing as a leper before the eyes of the Synagogue because of their constant contact with Gentiles and their working on Sabbath. Well too bad for him, what's that got to do with me. The depraved condition of Levi is the depraved condition of every sinner.

II. A Departing Condescension from the Separate
But despite the sinful depraved condition of Levi, here we find Jesus approaching him and inviting him to be a follower and companion of Jesus

...reaction to your mild mannered IRS agent, or tax collector. That is what it is important not to bring the Bible up to the 21st century but to take our selves to the 1st century to understand the sinful condition of this publican named Levi.

Luke 2:28 And he left all, rose up, and followed him

Luke 3:12-13 Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you.

Luke 19:8 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.

Sabenus grave Inscription: Here lies an honest publican

So the rabbis taught, in their religious interpretation of the laws of Judaism, that you should not talk, walk, and above all you should not eat with a tax collector. They taught that the tax collector had turned their back on God and lived in a state of blasphemy.

You and I are under the accusing finger of the Law of Moses. You may not have extorted, but you have stolen. You've not always given God one day out of the week to worship Him after he has graciously given you 6 days of life. You have defiled yourself with the wickedness of this world.

...not snarling in disgust from the other side of the holier than
thou fence but condescending to where the sinner was.

Luke 5:28 And he left all, rose up, and followed him

So the rabbis taught, in their religious interpretation of the laws
of Leviticus that you shall not eat with a tax collector. The rabbis thought that the tax
collector had turned their back on God and lived in a state of
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You and I are under the accusing finger of the Law of Moses. You
may not have sinned, but you have sinned. You've not always
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graciously given you 6 days of life. You have defiled yourself with
the wickedness of this world.

The word Pharisee means Separated. Jesus not snarling.

A. The Conversion of The Sinner ^{vs 14} Jesus said to him "follow me" this was a commanding call, an imperative (act 17:31) this was a continuing call. ^{me} word indicates an ongoing process. "Start following a continuing call." Follow with me" walk together with me. He arose + followed. Luke 5:28. "Dine yourself take up your cross." vs 15. sat at meat in his house. What a picture of conversion? Jesus moved into home.

B. The Company of Sinners Even further, Jesus kept company with others of the same sort as Levi. Others that had yet to forsake all and follow Him. Others who's daily lives were taken up in stealing, extorting, law breaking yet there Jesus was in the midst of them, no doubt teaching of the Kingdom of God, to redeem hearts in Levi's home. His presence there was not ^{their sin but reaching} condemning.

C. The Centrality of the Scene - vs 16
I can only imagine your reaction to seeing your pastor accompanying five druggies into a bar on Ross Mill Blvd. And I do not believe this account is condemning such behaviors. But you must agree that we can close ourselves in Christian bubble and be so separated that we separate ourselves from the folks who need us most. David Legge

II. The Divine Commission of the Saviour
Jesus responded to these critical questioners with an illustration that pin points the heart of the salvation

of any sinner. V51/ They that are unwise

A. The Rejection of the Self-Righteous
In this illustration of gospel truth Jesus points out 2 groups. The first is the whole and righteous group. This group is representative of the Pharisees. These consider themselves whole. They refuse to recognize that past the eggshell exterior of religious piety is a heart that is desperately wicked, is a haughty prideful mindset, is a soul that will endure the torments of Judgment for eternity. They don't need a Christ because they do not believe they are sinful when there are! O clear warning signs to the contrary

B. The Repentance of the Sinner - No the commission of Jesus is to come to those that know they need help. To those that are convinced of the sickness, convinced of the precarious nature of their condition. It was not difficult to point out the sinful problems of the publican. Just like it is not difficult to point someone to the Law of God and show their sinful condition before a holy God. Jesus is calling those that will admit their condition of sinfulness to turn to Him to have

IV. Closing

My aunt Myra is recovering from heart by-pass surgery. She put off going to the doctor for weeks saying that the chest pains were just indigestion. She felt as though she didn't need a physician, when in fact 2 of her arteries were over 90% blocked. Fortunately, her condition worsened to the point that a doctor's office visit was necessary, but how many sinners cling to their self diagnosis until they are overcome by death and hell.

...to leave their receipt of custom and come and follow Him. This is Christ's whole purpose: Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.